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## Online Dating Usernames. Semantic Analysis

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Pseudonimy na portalu randkowym. Analiza semantyczna wybranych nazw

### INTRODUCTION

The first matrimonial advertisements began to appear in 1700, a decade after the first newspaper was established (Cocks, 2009; cf. Oronowicz and Jaśkowiak, 2015, p. 326). Internet dating portals, like the Internet itself, were born in the United States. Their emergence dates back to the 1990s (Oronowicz and Jaśkowiak, 2015). We do not have any figures for Poland, but in the United States, according to various estimates, 5–33% of married couples have met through dating portals (Griscom, 2002; cf. Oronowicz and Jaśkowiak, 2015, p. 327). Furthermore, according to American researchers, couples who have met using this medium are less likely to part and feel more satisfied with their relationship (Cacioppo, Cacioppo, Gonzaca, Ogburn and VanderWeele, 2013; cf. Oronowicz and Jaśkowiak, 2015, p. 328).

Dating portals as a social phenomenon can be an interesting subject of analysis for psychologists, sociologists, but also for linguists. Research shows that self-presentation starts at the stage of selecting a username (login, Internet nickname), which becomes the user's visiting card. Changing login on the Internet is easier than changing the environment in real life, which allows a great deal of freedom in the acts of nomination. Anonymity, the domain of the Internet, and especially Internet dating portals, requires the use of symbolic, verifiable account names, but

also gives users the opportunity to let their imagination run free<sup>1</sup> and create their virtual *alter ego* – observing this phenomenon, David Lyon introduced the term *interactive and techno-social identity* (Miczka, 2004; cf. Siwiec, 2014 p. 102).

## OBJECTIVES

The subject discussed in this paper are pseudonyms, which are used by users of the most popular dating portal in Poland, Sympatia.onet.pl. The choice was made for this portal because of its wide territorial range. While quickly browsing the accounts, one can come to the conclusion that in every corner of Poland we will come across people with an account on “Sympatia”. The same applies to the age of users – “Sympatia” is a virtual meeting place for people aged 16 to 100, depending on the date of birth indicated by the user.

The aim of the research is to create a working classification of names due to the name-forming motivations of the authors of logins, and thus their semantic characteristics, as well as – indirectly – to determine the function that nicknames can perform in Internet communication. The article presents current naming trends on the dating portal, which additionally facilitates more findings about the creativity of username creators.

## TERMINOLOGICAL DISTINCTIONS

In professional onomastic literature and in everyday practice, there are several terms used by dating portal visitors to call their own names. There is no doubt that these names belong to the category of anthroponyms. Romana Łobodzińska and Maria Peisert (2003, pp. 649–650) draw attention to the following features of these *nomina propria*, which are characteristic of pseudonyms:

- they are created or selected by named entities,
- the purpose of their adoption is to conceal their true identity, i.e. first and last name,
- they provide an image of the bearer, of which he or she is also the creator; provide information about their interests, cherished values, often about age and gender, although they may also decide to conceal this information,

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<sup>1</sup> Websites requiring registration impose certain formal obligations on users with regard to logins. For example, Sympatia.onet.pl requires that the name should count from 4 to 30 characters, without Polish letters and special characters, and a maximum of 5 digits. The name must be unique to unambiguously identify the user, cf. <https://sympatia.onet.pl/register.html> (access: 28.12.2018).

- they have an identification, addressative (in virtual reality), often also expressive function,
  - the number of pseudonyms/usernames that an entity may use is unlimited.
- Adam Siwec defines Internet pseudonym as follows:

[...] an individual personalised proper name used for communication on the Internet, understood as an identifier of access to services related to Internet communication channels. We are dealing here with a motivated nomination, conveying information about the content of the concept and its place in the onomastic conceptual and terminological system (Siwec, 2014, p. 103).

The Polish naming terminology also includes the term *nick*, an abbreviation of the English word *nickname* and IT-related terms: *login*, *ID*, and *username*, with the *login* having, according to Tomasz Chyrzyński (2009, p. 118; cf. Siwec, 2014, p. 104), a more general meaning than the word *nick*, constituting the superior category.

Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch (2004) and Siwec (2014), among others, made a thorough analysis of nicknames as pseudonymic forms against the background of classic pseudonyms, noting the egalitarian nature of this naming category, which not only conceals the identity of the bearer, but also creates their image or images, not necessarily in order to misinform (Siwec, 2014, p. 110). Taking into account most of the features of this “cyber-onymic” category, it is difficult not to agree with researchers inclined to regard nicknames as pseudonyms, albeit transformed by modern communication technologies (Siwec, 2014, p. 121).

## PSEUDONYM FUNCTIONS AND TITLE FUNCTIONS

When analysing pseudonyms it is impossible to ignore their similarity with the titles of literary works. Titles perform specific functions and, at the level of function, but also of structure, one can see similarities. While summarizing the scientific achievements of researchers from all over the world, translologist Krzysztof Hejwowski distinguishes seven functions of titles (2014, pp. 184–190):

- identificational – a given title distinguishes the work from others, but also establishes its identity,
- presentational – the title may present an element of content, it may be the key to the interpretation of the work,
- connotational – consists in evoking certain associations and expectations in the reader,
- intertextual – refers to a different text/work,
- anecdotal – refers to facts known only to a small group of closest friends and family,

– commercial – attracts attention, intrigues, encourages to reach for the work,  
– aesthetic – a nice-sounding, easy to remember title increases the probability of reading a book.

The nomination act leading up to the creation of the new Internet nickname has much in common with the awarding of a title to literary works. The user has at their disposal a linguistic matter, thanks to which (using creativity) they can develop their own fragment of cyberspace, and create something from scratch.

## METHODOLOGY

The data presented in the following paragraphs were collected on the most popular dating portal for Polish speakers Sympatia.onet.pl.<sup>2</sup> The material was compiled in the period from June to December 2018. More than 30,000 names were collected and analysed for the purposes of the study.

Creating an account on a dating portal is simple, it only requires choosing a unique login. Importantly, it is as easy as setting up an account to temporarily suspend or delete it. This means that researchers never have full knowledge of all the logins created in the space and used by dating people. The database of dating pseudonyms is subject to dynamic changes. For the above reasons, decision was made for this paper to abandon the statistical analysis of the percentage shares of particular types of names in the whole corpus. Onomastic and sociological research has also been abandoned:<sup>3</sup> it would be worthwhile in the future to analyse comprehensively the differences in nicknames creation by persons representing different sex, age, place of residence.

Collecting data did not require contact with users, therefore, the classification of names proposed in the next part of the paper is based on the divisions resulting from the external interpretation of nicknames, not necessarily coinciding with the real motivation of the users who chose them. It cannot be ruled out that in some cases the seemingly easy to decipher name results from more complex thought processes and only contact with the user would allow to determine its true origin.

Moreover, a cursory analysis of the corpus alone allows us to notice that many names have the structure of conglomerates, which combine various elements, including semantic ones. In the classification below, the logins will be presented in

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<sup>2</sup> Data from August 2017 indicate 1.3 million active users of the portal Sympatia.onet.pl. Cf. <https://www.wirtualnemedi.pl/artykul/sympatia-na-czele-serwisow-randkowych-w-dol-edarling-i-sympatiaplus-datezone-liderem-w-erotyce> (access: 28.12.2018).

<sup>3</sup> The author of the study made contact with the entity managing the portal Sympatia.onet.pl; however, it was not possible to obtain the required data to conduct holistic research.

only one category, although alternative categorizations are possible. Initially, the main trends in naming and onomastics on the dating portal were presented.

All the cited names carefully reflect the intentions of the authors as to the use of capital letters, digits, typographical games, so they may conflict with the rules of correct spelling.

### SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF THE SELECTED SET OF LOGINS

In 1995, the Israeli researcher Haya Bechar-Israeli (cf. Chyrzyński, 2009, p. 120) distinguished seven main semantic categories within which all nicknames are created:

- names containing the real name,
- names related to oneself,
- names referring to the medium, technology and their properties,
- names associated with flora, fauna and inanimate objects,
- names using the play of words and sounds,
- names referring to literary, film and fairy-tale characters and encountered people,
- sexual and provocative names.

Despite the passage of many years, the proposed classification still seems to be up to date and complete, also in the case of logins on dating sites. Analysing the above described material from the portal for Polish-speaking users, it was possible to distinguish names referring to:

– the functions and substance of the dating portal and therefore relating to the search for new acquaintances because of loneliness and being single: *jejszukam; kto-szukatenznajdzie; sebuszuka; SzukajacySzczenia83; szukamciebie12; Szukamgirl; szukamprawdziwejmilosci; szukamrudej; SzukamwlasnieCiebie007; singiel1961; Singiel85LDZ; singiel90; singiellkaa; SingielOn; singielpodhale; Soloo; wolny81; Magdasamotna; samotna51; SamotneSerce7; Samotnesercee; samotnyforever; SamotnyOn95; SamotnyPiotr32; samotnyrak;*

– the name of the dating portal: *Beatasymp; Damiansympatia; JaSympatyk; sympatia59; sympatiaplus; sympatyczna1947; sympatycznaint; sympatycznas; sympatyczny3132; sympatycznycdn; SympatycznyPan39; sympatycznypan65; Sympatyn; tylkosymp;*

– feelings such as love and other romantic motifs: *emilosc; MiloscNaCaleZycie; TylkoMilosci; amerek71; Amerek84; asystentamora; flirciara8015; Romantico; RomaticTeo; romantyk1980r;*

– the requirement to select a login: *acojestwolne*; *anonimoweekonto*; *bardzodziwnylogin*; *bezimiennyOn*; *JuzWszystkieLoginyZajete*; *loginnasympatii*; *losowywolnylogin*; *MonikaBezNicka39*; *NajoryginalniejszyLogin*; *nazwauzytkownika*; *nickusiek*; *nielegalnynick*; *niemamlogina*; *Nowekonto*; *Pocomitennick*; *TakiJakisLogin*; *TuMialemWpisacNick*;

– negation: *NieMamMonitora*; *Nieparzysta*; *Niepokornaa*; *niepolubiszmnie*; *NoInsta*; *NieposkromnionyON*; *Niesfornaksiezniczka*; *nietypowyoptimista*; *niewysokiszarooki*; *niewyspanyjohnny*; *Jeszczezienajomyktos*; *Niejapierwszy*;

– the gender of the user: *Dziunieczka*; *Kobieta1971*; *kobietaZpasja*; *RagazzaDana*<sup>4</sup>; *tanczacawoman66*; *Womenka*; *pannakulturalna*; *Niunia27*; *Chico*<sup>5</sup>; *Chlopakzbagien*; *ciekawychlopak*; *Facet26*; *FacetnaMiare*; *facetzsasiedztwa*; *facio*; *Facio83*; *kreatywnyfacet*; *Mezczyzna*; *normalnyfacet68*; *NormalnyFacetPrawdziwy*; *NowyChlopak*; *PanJann*; *Panmarcepan*; *PanZdzich*; *PanZwyczajny*; *SubtelnyMEZCZYŻNA*;

– floral motifs: *aronia1*; *bzy*; *Frezja12*; *hiacynt14*; *konwalia7e*; *kwiat50*; *kwiatjabloni*; *Kwiatlotosu87*; *kwiatuszek76*; *malwa18*; *irys27*; *suNflowers22*; *niezapominajka1990*; *Slonecznik8*; *Stokrotka238*;

– animal motifs: *biedronkakropka*; *candypana*; *DrapieźnyNiedźwiadek*; *Kakadu*; *Kicia95*; *Leniwiec*; *maximisio*; *misiabela*<sup>6</sup>; *misioprzytulanka1967*; *MisiowatyJanek*; *Mruczek38*; *Pszczolka1*; *Senwilka*; *smakowitymis*; *teady*; *twowolvedinsideofme*; *wielkilew*; *wolf42*; *Kotek19*; *Ciemnykotciemnejnocy*; *patientwolf*<sup>7</sup>;

– musical motifs: *baritone*; *iLikeMusic*; *Bosanova*; *cichawoda2018*; *jazzbambina*; *musicasaweapon*; *saksofonik*; *Tamburello*; *MeLoDyy*; *vinyltrack*;

– names of professions, accents related to professional activity: *budowlaniecroman*; *ekspertka43*; *inżynierHumanista*; *kadrowa99*; *KierownikSzatni*; *lekarka*; *mojapaszamojapraca*; *pigularz*; *Primabalerina*; *strazaka*; *Strazak13*;

– names of alcoholic beverages or notions associated with alcohol consumption: *abstynent*; *MartiniBianco*; *miodowyjackdaniels*; *Smirnoff*; *winoikrew*; *Winoiwino211*; *wytrawnaa*; *Bellanova*<sup>8</sup>; *ColdWhiskey*; *bimber1978*.

Creating an image by adequately hiding defects or emphasizing advantages takes place at the level of selecting a nickname. Some users want to emphasize their uniqueness, others decide to invoke ordinariness, mediocrity, not to stand out from the crowd: *dziewczynkaZWYKLA*; *TaaZwyczajna*; *zwyčajna002*; *Zwyczajny*; *zwyčajnyyON*; *Zwyklyfacet78*; *zwyklyszaraczek*; *72poprostu*; *JustMe10*; *JustPablo*;

<sup>4</sup> From Italian *ragazza* = “girl(friend)”.

<sup>5</sup> From Spanish *chico* = “boy(friend)”.

<sup>6</sup> A well-known children rhyme.

<sup>7</sup> Name of the alcohol produced in Australia or from English *patient wolf*.

<sup>8</sup> Raoul Bellanova, Italian footballer, but also the name of a semi-dry wine.

*poprostufajny; poprostuflorek; poprostujal1; PoprostuMichal86; LimitowanaSeria; Wyjatkowyfacet1*. Some names refer to the vague notion of “being cool”: *czasam-ifajna; FajnaBoPo40stce; FajnaDziewczyna28; FajnaRandka; fajnymaciek333; fajnymichu; fajnyon; MateuszFajny*.

To a certain extent, a similar anonymity effect is achieved by using pronouns and third-person rhetoric in logins: *CalkiemNikt; jaionaonaija; jakistamon22; MozeToOn; Ona1308; ona59; OnaBiega; onadlaciebie; OnaKobietaJa; OnaMaSile2018<sup>9</sup>; OnaOna2018; ONTOMA; zainteresowanyon; onafajna23; Malomiastecznkowyon<sup>10</sup>*.

The logins presented below draw inspiration from concepts related to the external appearance of a person. References are made to:

– general appearance and beauty characteristics: *chudy70; Krasavica; opalony; sliczna60; zgrabna;*

– individual attributes of the human body, such as hair colour, eye colour or height: *Blondaz; blondella; Blondyna90; czarnab; rudaczesia; rudaoliwka; biond-overo; JuzNieCzarnula; Rudapozna; takisiwy; niebieskooki; BardzoWysokiSopot; Dwumetrowy; Niskigrubcio; Trochewysoki194; wysoki2525*.

The next category comprises names created in the process of transonymisation, derived from:

– anthroponyms, mainly first names: *Adrrrian; Anulik; Arturpol; asiabuziaczek; asialand; Asialik; bodzioslaw; DamianJakub; damyan; Danusia; Doridoridori; Dzastinka001; editte; Elaroma; eweuniuncia; fontAnna; gieneks; Giulio; goostav; Ilonka1992; irenkalove; isia91; JaAla; Jakuub; JanNowak1983; januszczyk; jedrula17; JestemTomasz; Kacperrrrrrrrrr; Katarzyna2014smile; Krzysiek82Bytom; Krzysiekja; kuba38lat; Kuba86LdzRdg; Lidkakitka; Lubow; luca1982; Magdusia111; Mahsiu; marcel; Marcino80; MarcinSzwecja; mario82ldz; marioo13o; mateuszek85; mateuunio; McKinley; michal1977pozn; Misza1981N; MlodyRobercik; Moniczka2304; OlaGombrowicz; Piotrasso; PiotrCEO; PiotrPawelTomasz; ppiotr; przemeczyprzemyslaw; RobertoZet; Ruslana; sebastianzm; Sebcio85; SiwySerek; takijedenmichal; tamarrka; Thomaszek22; Tomeg1; tomekinlove123; witoldek; ZenekMaruda; krzychula; bodzioslaw; pawelpozdrawiam; Damianex2; Pawel1111; Sebucha; zbychk;*

– place names: *baluty1; ld84<sup>11</sup>; Malaga; Sicilija; Taormina82; WedkarzLodz;*

– names of fictitious or authentic characters or their derivatives: *alpaci-nos; Andersen31; antoniobanderas; BaltazarGompka; BarackObama; Batory;*

<sup>9</sup> A fragment of the song *Zanim zrozumiesz* by Varius Manx.

<sup>10</sup> The adjective *malomiasteczkowy* may refer to the title of the song by Dawid Podsiadło.

<sup>11</sup> The user under this short login comes from the city of Łódź.



*bazyliżkowa; beckham; BondUE; bonelli; Calineczka871; Chrobry2; clooney; czarnakleopatra; Dante1990; Dostojewski; fiooona; Forrest87; franzkałkowski; Grimm; JackSparrow156; kopciuszek74m; Magellan89; MelaKoteluk; Melpomena; minotaur; Modliszka89; oswojonysmok; PACINO; PiotrusPan38; Pokahontas77; rimbaud; Romeo136; Rumboorak; speddygonzales; szaza15t; tarantino36; TomCruise88; Tonyhalik8; VeeKing; WilliamHenry; Wlooczykij; yagyelsky; yogi666; YokoOno; Zibi1981; romeo071; Odyseusz81; marcopolo75.*

The group of names indicating the broad membership of users and their association with the territorial area in which they live or from which they come or highlight their sporting preferences have mostly proprial origin: *barcelonista; dolnosłazak1234; hany8; Juvefan89; Łodzianka; mazowszanka44; Warszawiak1970; WarszawskaMatroszka; widzerek; Wielkopolanin; WilanowskiPirat; zoliborzanka; zPolskiJestem; KrakowianinPaweł; Rodowity*<sup>12</sup>.

A separate, numerous and internally diverse group consists of the names derived from different semantic resources, whose common denominator is the use of foreign language skills, i.e. about logins expressed in a foreign language:

– English: *Addicted23; alwayspositive; AmazingMan; Angela4You; be4you; BestLady; bewild; bigbadboy; bigbaddesign; BigBoy10; blackdove; BlueAngel; BraveDave; BornInThePRL78; CatchMeIfYouCan1; CatchYourHappiness; chosenone; Coffeefreak; Coldbones; CourageDream; DeepWater; Desire; earthguide; ECLIPSEDMOON; eternity1; exceptional092; ExtraSensoryPerception; eyelash; fallen4u; FallenAngel34; FallenAngelLCF; FASTERBETTER; Fire998; followme; Forgetmenots; FragileWoman; gowiththeflow; HeartandLogic; hEllouKitty; honest1987; HopeNeverDie; imagination; itsnotmycupoftea; June; JustADreamer; JustSayYouLoveMe; JustSomeGuy; Lady27; lionHeart80; LittleBlackDress79; LittleLady092; lostwisdom; LoudWhisper; loveinspiration; luck; maybeyou02; nice-somebody; Nicewoman; openToChange; outsider1980; Passingby; polandisthebest; rayofsun80; readytobe; redsunbluesky; SaintLady; Sensitive5711; sentimentalgentleman; shallwedance; soulstyle; specialgueststar; standby; STOPandTHINK; sugarbejbelove; summerdream; sunnysandstormy; superextra; wantmore; wisewoman; wouldithelp; youandmee; Values; Hellolove; WeAreStardust;*

– Italian: *ASSOLUTO; caffevergnano; Contrariante; CosaNostra; Domanimigliore; farfalle; Magica; PerSempre; sereno; sullaterra; tesorino; TesoroA; Velina;*

– Latin, German and other languages: *KleineHexe; Zimmer; canisLupus6; GregTotusTuus; Illustrissimus; gatopardo; hola.*

<sup>12</sup> Fan of the Łódzki Klub Sportowy.



Although the “Sympatia” portal, in the “Advice”<sup>13</sup> section, suggests that one should avoid obscene names, in the course of research we have also succeeded in excerpting nicks deserving of the title of at least ambiguous or provocative: *zrobieloda*; *analnarozkosz*; *bds8master*; *uleglyBDSM*; *dominanowa*; *Rafik69*; *Alwayshard69*; *Muszelka69*; *ruchajbej00xd*; *MarkizdeSade*; *Nacomaszchec*.

Finally, mention must be made of names based on various semantic motifs, often in the form of direct expression addressed to portal users, which are a kind of taunting and, at the same time, a group of the most original names: *aaaaapsik*; *AkukuKolezanko*; *celujwemnie*; *choodzmystad*; *CzaryMaryHokusPokus*; *czemu-niemy1*; *gdziestybyl*; *kleknijnakolanko*; *nastepnaprosze*; *niechpomysle*; *NoHey*; *Noprosze*; *podziwiamwas*; *SiemaEndrju*; *StefekZnaszGo*; *TakTakChetnieSieSpotkam*; *UsmiechnijSie*; *Usmiechnijsieprosze*; *ZakochajmySie25*; *ZanimPojde*.

## FINAL REMARKS

1. The large amount of numerical data in the pseudonyms testifies to the rather low level of creativity and the desire for individual users to stand out. When creating an account and entering the login proposal in the appropriate field, they encounter the need to propose another name, because the previously selected one already exists. Additional numbers incorporated in the login usually mean the age of the user, or the year/month of birth, or are a randomly selected combination of digits. In the case of male users, there is a reference to 007, probably referring to the fictional character of James Bond.

2. Certain categories of names are preferred by different social groups, for example, flower motifs appear in women at retirement age, while references to alcohol names are the domain of male users regardless of age.

3. A significant part of the names are inspired by the English language, which confirms the general tendency observed for years in the language and in virtual nomenclature.

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<sup>13</sup> It is difficult to disagree with many of the advice on the nomination file proposed by the “Sympatia” portal. The advice included, among others, the following suggestions: “Choose a nickname that will say something about your interests, passions or professions; if you are interested in external appearance, think about a name that will emphasize your physical values; test among your friends what kind of associations your nickname evokes; do not define yourself as a chaotic sequence of numbers or letters, e.g. 99999 or !XxX! It is hard to read anything about your identity from this, not to mention that it looks more like a serial number of a product or a corporate logo than a human name; do not try to be too mysterious!”, cf. <https://porady.sympatia.onet.pl/sympatia-radzi-jak-dobrac-pseudonim-w-sieci/z60nvgb> (access: 29.12.2018).

4. Names derived from first names and their diminutive forms are a ubiquitous, even dominant category, and constitute the majority of logins in the case of women under thirty years of age.

5. Among the animal motifs preferred by male users of the portal, bear, wolf and lion come to the fore because of their expressiveness.

6. Male naming acts may surprise, especially a large number of diminutive names or name formations associated with the names of companies from the People's Republic of Poland. The cited logins referring to romanticism and love were more often chosen by male users, contrary to expectations.

7. As Łobodzińska and Peisert (2003, p. 652) rightly point out, thanks to nicknames created without formal and linguistic creation, man finds his place in a virtual space, and the space itself becomes more orderly. Furthermore, the choice of login allows to learn about the intentions of their respective bearers or their interests.

8. Apart from references to the name of the dating portal and motifs related to love and loneliness, dating-site pseudonyms do not seem to differ from other such names used on the Internet in other communication situations (e.g. on Internet forums).

*Translated into English by Marek Robak-Sobolewski*

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## ABSTRACT

This paper presents online dating-site nicknames created by Polish-speaking users. After a theoretical introduction about comments on the functioning of dating sites, terminological considerations about the online nickname against other anthroponyms, and the presentation of the nicknames' functions in relation to the current classification of the functions of literary works' titles found in translation literature, the results of the study were presented, which included over 30,000 real names out of 1.3 million existing logins. The analysis has revealed that the classification proposed by Bechar-Israeli is still valid. Nicknames belong to the following main categories: pertaining to a person's self: first names, character traits or physical appearance; related to literature, fairy tales, characters from films, plays, and television; named after famous people; related to flora and fauna; related to the medium, technology, computer names; containing play with language and typography; sex-related and provocative. The list of excerpted names contained a huge number of nicknames influenced by English or derived from anthroponyms.

**Keywords:** nickname, anthroponym, username, functions of nicknames, online dating

## ABSTRAKT

Celem artykułu jest analiza pseudonimów internetowych (nicków) tworzonych przez użytkowników polskiego portalu randkowego. Po wstępie teoretycznym, obejmującym uwagi dotyczące funkcjonowania portali randkowych, rozważania terminologiczne na temat pseudonimu internetowego na tle innych antropimów oraz przedstawieniu funkcji pseudonimów w nawiązaniu do obecnych w literaturze przekładowej klasyfikacji funkcji tytułów dzieł literackich, zaprezentowano wyniki badania, któremu poddano ponad 30.000 realnych nazw spośród 1,3 mln istniejących loginów. Analiza semantyczna pozwoliła na wyodrębnienie następujących kategorii, nawiązujących do modelu

zapropo­nowanego przez H. Bechar-Israeli: nazwy zawierające prawdziwe imię; związane z własną osobą; odnoszące się do medium, technologii i ich właściwości; związane z florą, fauną i obiektami nieożywionymi; wykorzystujące zabawy słowne; nawiązujące do postaci literackich, filmowych, bajkowych oraz do znanych osób; odnoszące się do seksu i prowokacyjne. Zgromadzony materiał potwierdził tezę o niewielkiej kreatywności bywalców portali randkowych, korzystających w akcji nominacji z dużą częstotliwością z derywowanych odatroponimicznie loginów zawierających dla odróżnienia liczebniki, jak również posługujących się w dużej mierze językiem angielskim.

**Słowa kluczowe:** pseudonim internetowy, nick, antroponim, funkcje pseudonimów, portal randkowy

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